

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10 (canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A refrigeration device, comprising:

- a thermally insulating housing;
- said thermally insulating housing enclosing an inner chamber;
- said thermally insulating housing enclosing an evaporator arranged in an air passage separated from and communicating with said inner chamber;
- a heating device for heating said evaporator;
- a control circuit for controlling operation of said heating device;
- a measuring device arranged in said air passage to provide a measured signal representative of air flow through said air passage; and
- said control circuit coupled to said measuring device and receiving said measured signal, said control circuit activating said heating device when the air flow falls below a predetermined threshold value.

12. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to claim 11, wherein said measuring device includes a body driven to move by said air flow in said passage and a sensor to record the movement of said body indicative of air flow speed and said control circuit determines a fall below said threshold value when the air flow speed falls below said threshold value.

13. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to claim 11, wherein said measuring device includes an elastic element which can be

deflected from a rest position by said air flow in said passage and a sensor to record the deflection of said element indicative of air flow speed and said control circuit determines a fall below said threshold value when the recorded deflection falls below said threshold value.

14. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to claim 11, wherein said measuring device includes a pressure sensor to measure a dynamic air pressure in said passage indicative of air flow speed and said control circuit determines a fall below the threshold value when said recorded pressure rises above said threshold value.

15. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to claim 11, wherein said measuring device includes two temperature sensors which are thermally differently closely coupled to at least one of a heat source and a sink and the air in said passage indicative of air flow speed and said control circuit determines a fall below the threshold value when the difference between the temperatures recorded by the two sensors exceeds said threshold value.

16. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to claim 15, wherein said heat sink is said evaporator.

17. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to claim 16, including a first one of said temperature sensors arranged directly in contact with said evaporator.

18. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to claim 17, wherein said first temperature sensor is arranged on an area of said evaporator which is capable of icing up.

19. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to claim 18, wherein a second one of said temperature sensors is arranged on an output of said passage.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling the defrosting of an evaporator in a refrigeration device, said refrigeration device comprising a thermally insulating housing; said thermally insulating housing enclosing an inner chamber; said thermally insulating housing enclosing an evaporator arranged in an air passage separated from and communicating with said inner chamber; a heating device for heating said evaporator; and a control circuit for controlling the operation of said heating device, said method comprising:

estimating an air flow through said air passage in which said evaporator is arranged; and

triggering a defrosting process when the estimated air flow falls below a predetermined threshold value.

21. (Previously Presented) A refrigeration device, comprising:

a thermally insulated housing enclosing an inner chamber and including an air passage separated from and communicating with said inner chamber;

an evaporator arranged in said air passage;

a heating device for heating said evaporator;

a control circuit for controlling operation of said heating device; and

a measuring device disposed in said air passage, said measuring device being directly displaceable by air flow through said air passage,

wherein said control circuit communicates with said measuring device and activates said heating device when the air flow through said air passage falls below a predetermined threshold value.

22. (New) The refrigeration device according to claim 21, wherein the measuring device comprises a wind wheel disposed in said air passage, wherein a turning speed of the wind wheel is indicative of said air flow through said air passage.

23. (New) The refrigeration device according to claim 21, wherein the measuring device comprises a flexible lamella projecting into said air passage, wherein a deflection amount of the flexible lamella is indicative of said air flow through said air passage.

24. (New) The refrigeration device according to claim 21, wherein said air passage comprises a constricted section forming a nozzle that directs outflow to a pressure chamber, and wherein the measuring device comprises a pressure sensor disposed in the pressure chamber, the control circuit estimating a flow velocity of said air flow through said air passage based on an output signal of the pressure sensor.